Abolishing Prostitution IS NOT THE SAME AS Prohibiting Prostitution

When we talk about prostitution, LET’S BE CLEAR:

- It is not something one does, but something that is done to someone.
- Abolishing prostitution dignifies more than prohibiting it.
- Decriminalizing or legalizing it worsens conditions for women and girls.

What is the prostitutonal system?5

Trafficickers1
He or she who recruits, transports, harbors or receives a person with the purpose of the exploitation of prostitution of others and other forms of sexual exploitation (such as pornography).

The demand3
Mainly men who pay for sexual access to women and girls.

How do we know this

- Thanks to International Human Rights Law instruments.
- Thanks to results and reports on legislation applied in different countries.

Traffickers1

It is a criminal system that profits from sexually exploiting women and girls.

It imposes a sexual relationship coercing through money or debt.

It takes advantage of vulnerability and is abuse of power.

It perpetuates sexist stereotypes.

Pimps2
He or she who procures, entices or leads away, exploits, keeps or manages, lets or rents a place for the prostitution of others, even with the consent of that person.

The supply4
Mainly women and girls sexually exploited in prostitution and pornography.

It is a symbol of subordination that makes women’s inequality institutional.

It hampers the right women have conquered to say NO.

It is violence against women and girls and a violation of their human rights.

1 Articles 1-3 United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)
3 Ibid Article 9.5
5 French law aimed at strengthening the fight against the prostitutonal system and providing support for prostituted persons. Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (2016)
**How to combat the prostitutional system according to international law?**

- Recognize that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity of the human being.
- Punish the conduct of pimps and traffickers.
- Discourage the demand that fosters the exploitation of the prostitution of others.
- Protect and assist victims of these violations.

**Let’s clarify legislative models around the world:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Abolish the prostitutional system</th>
<th>It criminalizes...</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Measures that protect women from those who promote and profit from the prostitution of others.</td>
<td>It criminalizes traffickers, pimps and the demand, <strong>but not</strong> the women.</td>
<td>✓ The number of prostituted women decreases sharply as well as associated crime. They have protection, access to a dignified life and men treat them equally.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>Prohibit prostitution</th>
<th>It criminalizes even women.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Measures to prohibit the conduct of all actors, punishing women mostly.</td>
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<td>✗ It increases the underground demand for prostitution and pornography, as well as trafficking and pimping.</td>
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<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>Decriminalize or legalize pimping</th>
<th>It decriminalizes all, even pimps and traffickers.</th>
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<td>Measures that legalize the exploitation of the prostitution of others as “sex work” and pimping as “legitimate entrepreneurship”.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✗ It sharply increases prostituted women, femicides and missing women, as well as the demand and associated crime.</td>
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**Don’t be confused! Use evidence above opinion.**

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6 See the Report on the Prohibition of the Purchase of Sexual Services. An evaluation 1999-2008 (SOU 2010:49) for the Government of Sweden (better known as the Nordic Model)


8 See the Report of the Act Regulating the Legal Situation of Prostitutes (Prostitution Law) of 2007 of the German government.